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APPROVED FOR RELEASE – DISAPPEARANCE OF AMELIA EARHART 2025 REVIEW

BOOKS

Amelia Earhart: Is This What Happened?

Brown Brothers

The youngsters who know the name Amelia Earhart chiefly as a brand of luggage are apt to gather from a new biography of the lady by Paul L. Briand Jr. (*"Daughter of the Sky." 230 pages. Duell, Sloan and Pearce. $3.95*) that she was just a kind of nutty flier. Readers who are a little older and can remember the exploits of the intrepid queen of the skies will discover here one more theory, among the many that have been advanced, about her disappearance, plus considerable material already available.

For years after Miss Earhart (wife of publisher George P. Putnam) and her navigator Fred J. Noonan disappeared in their Lockheed plane in 1937, somewhere between New Guinea and Howland Island, reports, speculation, and even cynical hoaxes kept bringing her name back into print. It seemed that there was hardly a Pacific island where some native hadn't seen a great white bird-lady come from the skies. It was believed, for a while, and by some intelligent people, too, that Miss Earhart had been secretly planted in the South Pacific by the U.S. Government to spy on the Japanese.

Saipan Story: Others thought she had run off to a snug little Defoe-like island, with Noonan, to spend her days eating coconuts and watching the sunsets. Briand's theory is that she landed on Saipan and was immediately shot by the Japanese. His proof is a woman of Saipan who—as a child—saw an American woman in man's clothes who may or may not have been led away and shot.

For doubters who know that Saipan is 2,600 miles from Howland, he insists that navigator Noonan was incompetent and pilot Earhart herself was erratic, and makes a pretty interesting case.